1: Allen H-4 (no date) 1932 R11 Georgia R11

CHAPTER III

THE SWARMING AND THE MINGLING

000 "Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. . . . Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands, and many people with thee."

Ezekiel xxxviii. 3, 4, 6.

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In Western Asia, the process of the mixing of different stocks dates back to remote periods, long before the Swarming Time of the eleventh to seventh centuries B.C. That peculiar type which is native to these parts, so-called autochthonous—out of the ground—is quite permanent, always resurgent, mastering the bodies of new masters. The strong-boned physique, the broad "square" head with its strong growth of wavy hair and beard, the wide dark eyes, the sallow skin, are bred to these mountain countries from the Ice Age. This type is called "Armenoid", or more appropriately "Alpine", and it has spread to Europe in prehistoric times along the mountain belt as far as the Pyrenees, and over Iran to the Pamirs; and it has filtered down through Palestine to Egypt, surviving, as all types, mostly in those parts which were likest in condition to its homeland.[1] The peasantry of Western Asia, whether they be called Georgian, Armenian or Turkish, are of this autochthonous stock—out of the ground. The two long-headed stocks—"Mediterranean" man from the south-western quarters of Asia and from North Africa, and "Nordic" man out of the northern steppes—are foreign to these parts, remnants of old pressures, invasions and intrusions. Men of the "Mediterranean" stock pressed up the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates; they made their own the lands south of the Taurus. Men of the "Nordic" stock—whose movements

[1] See Note C, p. 368.

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and east of the Rioni) are Georgian, and Imeret'ian and other west Georgian dialects are spoken there. To the Georgian area belongs also Adjaristan (Adžaristan), the valley of the Acharis-Tskhali, which borders in the south and west on Azerbaidjanian and Osman speaking peoples, and in the west, with the Laz people. The Adjarians (Acharians), like their neighbors, are of Mohammedan faith.

T'ushuri, Khevsuri and P'shaveli

The northeasternmost Georgians, living in the alpine parts of the central Caucasus, are an interesting and distinct people. Although they speak East-K'art'velian dialects and are Orthodox Christians, the Georgians do not consider them as the same nation. The reasons are not only their inaccessibility and age-long seclusion and independence, but also customs and manners which in this way have been preserved from by-gone times. These remote people make up three tribes: the T'ushuri, Khevsúri, and P'shaveli, who live in the high valleys of the source rivers of the Andi-Koisu, Aragvi, and Argun, and of the Iora. In sharp contrast to other Caucasian peoples, blue eyes are not rare with them. Shields, spears, straight long swords, iron or steel helmets, coats of mail and armor were worn by many of them (usually the Khevsurs) as late as the nineteenth century, and in a few instances, even after the Russian Revolution.

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